

March 2006

Workforce News



A publication of the Department of
Workforce Services

Wasatch Front South: Salt Lake, Tooele

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A Strong and Vibrant Economy

Salt Lake and Tooele counties began to recover from the 2001 recession and subsequent “jobless recovery” at the end of 2003. After two years of steadily improving job growth, Salt Lake and Tooele employment was expanding by 4.6 percent in September of 2005, on a year-over basis. This is the strongest job growth since 1996. Translated into the number of jobs – there were upwards of 25,000 more jobs in the fall of 2005 than there were at that same time in 2004.

Construction, both residential and commercial, continues to be a major engine of growth, propelling the economy forward in both Salt Lake and Tooele counties, with about 3,750 new jobs. The favorable interest rate



environment, expanding population, and overall health of this economic expansion are enabling this strong building activity.

Another industrial sector driving the area's economy forward is professional and business services. Of the 7,670

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Contact the author, your regional economist, with any questions on content:

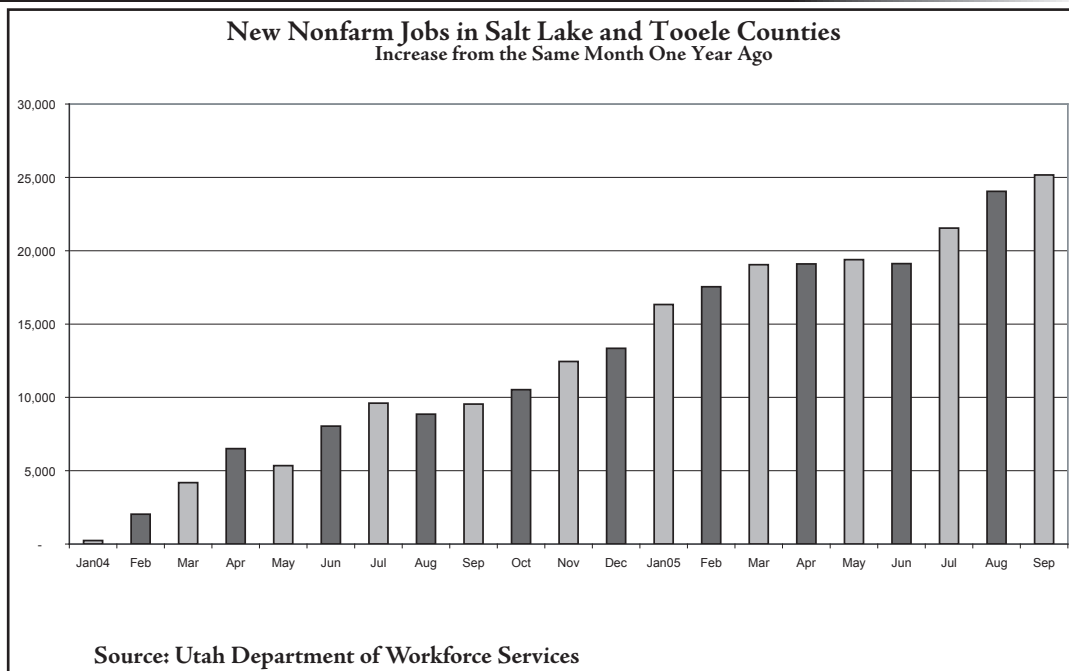
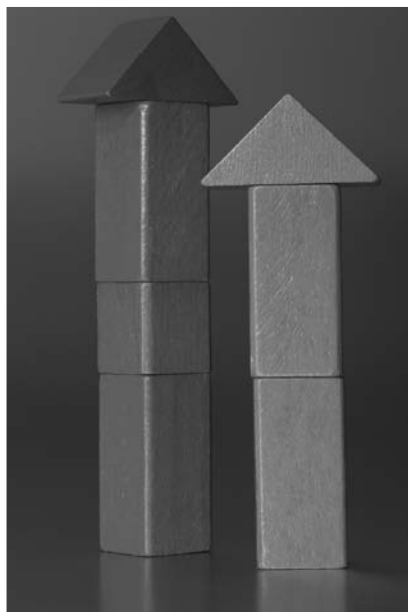
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More information available online!

<http://jobs.utah.gov/opencms/wi/pubs/wni/>

A Strong and Vibrant Economy

(continued)



Check it Out



Want to see what the job vacancy rate is, what jobs are always open, what the average wage is for open jobs?

Find out all this and much more in our new Job Vacancy Study at <http://jobs.utah.gov/opencms/wi/pubs/jvs2005/>.

new jobs in this industry, 2,700 are professional, scientific, and technical and 3,560 are administrative and support services to businesses. About 32 percent of administrative and support services jobs are employment services, which includes temp agencies.

The professional, scientific, and technical industry is primarily made up of firms engaged in computer systems design, architectural and engineering services, legal services, advertising, and scientific research. During the recessionary period of 2001 and 2002 computer systems design companies saw the largest employment declines, with a loss of just over 2,100 jobs out of a total of around 8,100. During the past two years of recovery, these firms have been able to restore 1,600 jobs to reach employment of 7,600.

Other major industries with substantial job gains include: trade (wholesale and retail) with 2,500 new jobs, healthcare increasing by 1,900 and finance with 1,800 new jobs.

While the above-mentioned industries are clearly the strongest, the current economic picture in Salt Lake and Tooele counties is so vibrant that all major industrial sectors are creating new jobs. The slack that existed in the labor market for several years is gone. Employers report that it is becoming much more difficult to recruit new workers.

High-energy prices and other high material costs (particularly in construction), have been and continue to be the primary concerns for economic health. To this point, the economy has proven to be resilient and is expected to continue to expand and create new jobs through 2006.

County News

Salt Lake and Tooele: Envirocare has made acquisitions and merged divisions to form a new company – EnergySolutions.

Envirocare of Utah's owners have bought the British company BNG America, a British government radioactive waste cleanup company, and are merging it with Envirocare and another of its divisions to form a new corporation. The new entity, EnergySolutions, will be based in Salt Lake City. The Times of London reported the purchase price for the British company at \$90 million.

<http://deseretnews.com/dn/print/1,1442,635181433,00.html>

Salt Lake-based EnergySolutions signed a definitive agreement to acquire Duratek, based in Columbia, Md., for \$396 million. Duratek bills itself as a provider of safe, secure disposal services for radioactive material. This project has been in the works for three years, according to Steve Creamer, the Utahn who is president and CEO of EnergySolutions. Creamer said the former Envirocare low-level radioactive waste disposal facility at the Clive, Tooele County, railroad siding would continue its present operations. "The Clive facility will stay just like it is," he said. It will accept only Class A low-level waste. The formation of EnergySolutions itself was announced just [recently]. The owners of Envirocare of Utah bought the British government radioactive waste cleanup company, BNG America, and merged it with Envirocare and an Envirocare division, Sciencetech D&D, to create EnergySolutions.

<http://deseretnews.com/dn/view/1%2C1249%2C635182631%2C00.html>

Tooele County: For most of 2005 Tooele County has maintained about 1,500 more jobs than it had during 2004. This is a job growth rate of 12 percent. At least 800 of these jobs are the result of the opening and operation of the Wal-Mart distribution center in Grantsville. These transportation and warehousing jobs have had a major impact on the local economy, spurring on economic growth.



What's Up?

✧ Salt Lake's hotel rooms are filling up fast. In 2005, the city's overall occupancy rate climbed to 69.1 percent, up from 62.9 percent in 2004, according to the Rocky Mountain Lodging Report. The average room rates for Salt Lake City also increased in 2005 to \$76.85, up from \$75.71 a year earlier.

(Deseret Morning News, 01/29/06)

✧ Salt Lake's commercial real estate market in 2005 had one of its most dynamic years since the late 1990s, with lease rates inching up and vacancy rates falling.

(Deseret Morning News, 01/27/06)

✧ In Utah, women owned 48,474 businesses in 2002, up 15 percent since 1997, a quarter of all businesses in the state. The businesses accounted for \$5.9 billion in sales and receipts.

(Deseret Morning News, 01/26/06)

✧ For the 12 months ended Dec. 31, the median price of a single-family home in Salt Lake County climbed to \$185,500, up 12.4 percent from the 2004 median price of \$165,000, according to the Wasatch Front Regional Multiple Listing Service.

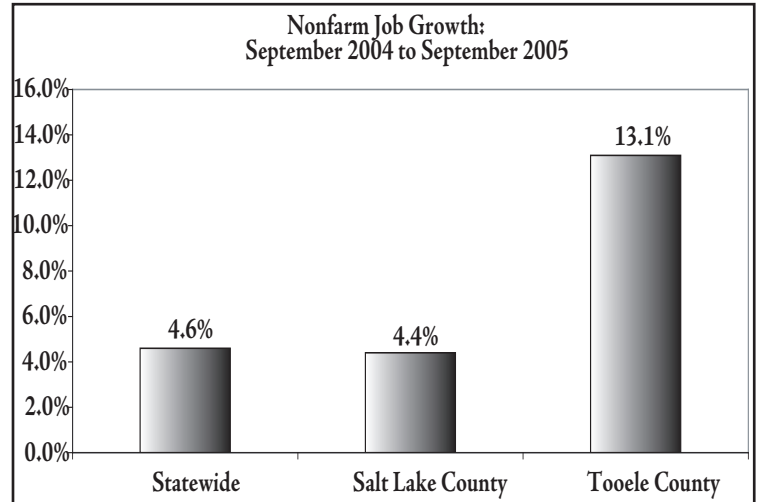
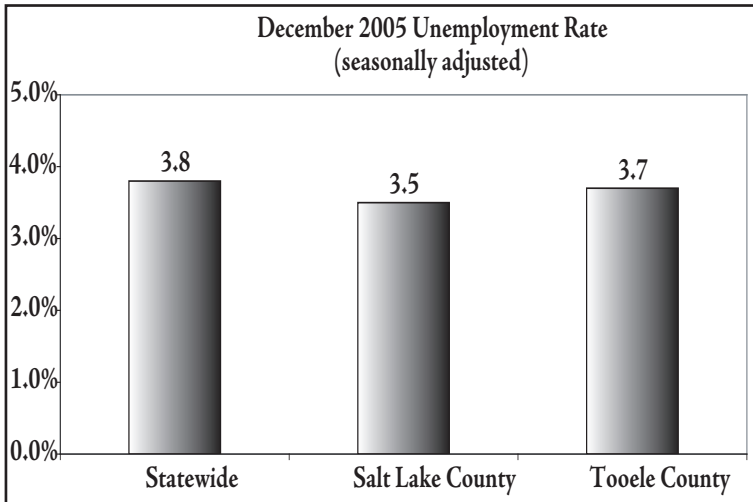
(Deseret Morning News, 01/21/06)

✧ The Cedar Mountain Wilderness Area received final approval by Pres. George W. Bush. Nearly 100,000 acres in the Skull Valley are now protected from many kinds of development. The rail spur, proposed by Private Fuel Storage that would have transported high-level nuclear waste through Skull Valley is no longer possible.

(Tooele Transcript Bulletin, 01/10/06)

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Source: Department of Workforce Services

03-51WS-0306

PAID
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